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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DPW-01 IO-13 EB-11

RSR-01 /110 W
---------- 098321
R 151120 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1024
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16489

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, UN, US, LA, CB
SUBJECT: NEW GVN CHARGE' S VIEWS OF HIS MISSION

REF: PARIS 15141

1. LE QUAN GIANG, THE NEWLY ARRIVED GVN CHARGE, PAID COURTESY CALL ON ACTING DCM JUNE 14. GIANG SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE AN EFFORT RAPIDLY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE. HIS TASKS IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE WERE: A) TO STIMULATE FRENCH AID PROGRAM FOR GVN; B) TO ENCOURAGE FRENCH INVESTMENT IN SVN; C) TO ENCOURAGE FRENCH RECIPROCITY TO SVN EXPORTS TO IMPROVE BALANCE OF TRADE. HE HAD ALREADY MADE HIS CONTACTS ON THESE SUBJECTS WITH QUAI OFFICIALS, AND WOULD LUNCH JUNE 15 WITH THE GOF DEPUTY MISSOFFE (REFTEL) CHARGED WITH COORDINATING FRENCH AID TO INDOCHINA.

2. GIANG COMMENTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH FRANCE HAD PLAYED IN THE INDOCHINA STATES, THERE WERE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR EXPANDED FRENCH INVESTMENTS, PARTICULARLY BY COMPANIES WELL ACQUAINTED WITH VIET- NAM. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE MORE LIBERAL INVESTMENT LAW OF JUNE 1972 HAD NOT PRODUCED A VERY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN INVESTMENTS, BUT UNDER THE NEW POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES
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HE HOPED GOF WOULD BE MORE AWARE OF ITS IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTERESTS IN SOUTH VIET- NAM AND ENCOURAGE GREATER INVESTMENT. GIANG OBSERVED THAT THE CURRENT HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON US AID TO COVER TRADE DEFICIT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

3. GIANG SAID THAT HIS ASSIGNMENT MIGHT BE ONLY TEMPORARY; IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE AMBASSADOR HE MIGHT SOON BE REPOSTED TO THE MINISTRY.

4. COMMENT: GIANG GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF GREATER ENTERPRISE AND ENTHUSIASM THAN WE HAVE SEEN FOR SOME TIME IN THE GVN CONSULATE GENERAL/ EMBASSY. IT APPEARS THAT GIANG' S MISSION IS SUFFICIENTLY UNRELATED TO THAT OF THE HIGHER RANKING MEMBERS OF THE GVN DELEGATION FOR THE BILATERAL TALKS SO THAT HE MAY HAVE A RELATIVELY FREE HAND AT LEAST IN ECONOMIC MATTTERS INVOLVING THE GOF AND FRENCH BUSINESSMEN.
IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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